

Message Text

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SUBJECT: NATO SCIENCE COMMITTEE: ANNUAL REPORT TO NORTH
ATLANTIC COUNCIL

REF: USNATO 1159

SUMMARY: THERE FOLLOWS BELOW IN PARA 1 DOCUMENT C-M(78)34,
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COUNCIL FOR 1977 BY THE NATO SCIENCE
COMMITTEE, AND COVERING NOTE BY ACTING SYG WHO REQUESTS
THAT REPORT BE NOTED BY SILENT CONSENT. WE RECOMMEND THAT
WE BE AUTHORIZED TO CONCUR IN NOTING THIS ROUTINE REPORT
AS SUGGESTED. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. BEGIN TEXT: NOTE BY ACTING SECRETARY GENERAL. THE
SCIENCE COMMITTEE HERewith SUBMITS ITS THIRD ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE COUNCIL COVERING ITS ACTIVITIES FOR 1977.

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IF NO COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS REACH ME BY 16TH MAY, 1978
I WILL CONSIDER THAT THE COUNCIL HAS NOTED THE ATTACHED
REPORT. (SIGNED) RINALDO PETRIGNANI.

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COUNCIL FOR 1977 BY THE NATO SCIENCE
COMMITTEE.

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1. INTRODUCTION. THE NATO SCIENCE COMMITTEE IS PLEASED TO
PRESENT ITS THIRD ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COUNCIL. THIS YEAR
IT CONTAINS AN ASSESSMENT OF ITS FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAMME,
IN ADDITION TO A BRIEF GENERAL ACCOUNT OF ITS ACTIVITIES IN
1977. THIS HAS BEEN A DIFFICULT YEAR, SINCE THE WORLD-WIDE
RECESSION HAS LED TO A GREATLY INCREASED DEMAND BY THE
SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMITTEE'S SUPPORT, AND THE

REPORT OUTLINES HOW THE COMMITTEE RESPONDED TO THIS SITUATION.

2. THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE. THE COMMITTEE SUPPORTED ITS 1977 PROGRAMME WITH A BUDGET OF B.FR. 310 MILLION, WHICH REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF 6.9 PERCENT WITH RESPECT TO 1976 THE INCREASE WAS CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN THE AVERAGE INFLATION IN MEMBER COUNTRIES, A FACTOR WHICH LED TO A SIGNIFICANT CONTRACTION OF THE PROGRAMME IN REAL TERMS.

THE SCIENCE COMMITTEE CELEBRATED ITS 20 TH ANNIVERSARY IN APRIL 1978 BY HOLDING A COMMEMORATION CONFERENCE. THIS CONFERENCE REVIEWED THE IMPACT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON SOCIETY IN THE LAST TWENTY YEARS, AND ASSESSED THE CURRENT PROBLEMS AND NEEDS FACING ALLIANCE NATIONS. THE COMMITTEE WAS MOST PLEASED WITH THE RESPONSE OF DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE, AND WELCOMED THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL IN THIS IMPORTANT EVENT. THE RESULTS OF THE COMMEMORATION CONFERENCE WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY TO THE COUNCIL.

THE FIVE ACTIVITIES PROMOTED BY THE COMMITTEE WILL BE BRIEFLY DESCRIBED HERE, AND A MORE DETAILED ACCOUNT OF ONE OF THEM.THE FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAMME, WILL BE GIVEN.

2.1 ADVANCED STUDY INSTITUTES. THE PURPOSE OF THE ADVANCED UNCLASSIFIED

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STUDY INSTITUTES PROGRAMME IS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DISSEMINATION OF ADVANCED KNOWLEDGE AND THE FORMATION OF CONTACTS AMONG SCIENTISTS PRIMARILY FROM NATO COUNTRIES. THERE WERE 43 TUTORIAL COURSES IN 1977; THE PROGRAMME HAS NOW SPONSORED 810 INSTITUTES OF THIS UNIQUE TYPE.

DUE TO THE CONSIDERABLE INTEREST WHICH THE ADVANCED STUDY INSTITUTES GENERATE EVERY YEAR, PUBLICATION OF THEIR PROCEEDINGS IN THE NATO ASI SERIES IS CONSIDERED AN IMPORTANT FACTOR, AS IT LEADS TO WIDER DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPED AT THESE INSTITUTES. MORE THAN 20 VOLUMES HAVE APPEARED IN THE NATO ASI SERIES DURING THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW

2.2 THE RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAMME. THIS PROGRAMME HAS THE SPECIFIC AIM OF STIMULATING AND ENCOURAGING CLOSE COLLABORATION BETWEEN RESEARCH GROUPS ENGAGED IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN RELATED AREAS IN TWO OR MORE MEMBER COUNTRIES THROUGH GRANTS TO INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH WORKERS. DUE CONSIDERATION IS GIVEN TO PROJECTS WHICH DO NOT FIT EASILY INTO NATIONAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS, AND TO PROJECTS TO BE DEVELOPED IN COUNTRIES WITH A SPECIAL NEED FOR RAPID SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENT.AS A RESULT OF THE SHARP INCREASE IN THE NUMBER

AND QUALITY OF APPLICATIONS--WHICH UNFORTUNATELY WAS NOT MET BY A PARALLEL INCREASE IN FUNDS--IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO REDUCE THE SIZE OF AWARDS TO THE ABSOLUTE MINIMUM AND TO MAKE CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTIONS EVEN MORE SEVERE. IN 1977, 550 APPLICATIONS WERE CONSIDERED, OF WHICH 327 WERE RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING AT SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED LEVELS RELATIVE TO REQUESTS, AND GENERALLY COVERING ONLY THE COSTS OF TRAVEL.

2.3 THE SPECIAL PROGRAMME PANELS. SPECIAL PROGRAMME

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PANELS ARE CREATED BY THE COMMITTEE FOR CERTAIN AREAS WHICH AS A RESULT OF A CAREFUL STUDY, HAVE BEEN DEEMED WORTHY OF SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL EFFORT. THE PANELS SUPPORT INNOVATIVE PROJECTS, THROUGH RESEARCH GRANTS, SYMPOSIA, EXCHANGE VISITS, SPECIAL STUDIES, ETC.

--THE NEW MATERIALS SCIENCE PANEL SET ITS PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT TWO OR THREE YEARS, AND DECIDED TO CONCENTRATE ON INDUSTRIAL MATERIALS; THE MATERIALS ASPECTS OF ENERGY GENERATION, STORAGE AND USE; AND NOVEL MATERIALS. IT HAS DEVELOPED A PROGRAMME OUTLINE WITHIN EACH OF THESE AREAS, AND IDENTIFIED SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES.

-- THE ECO-SCIENCES PANEL SPONSORED A WORKSHOP ON ECOTOXICOLOGY. THE WORKSHOP WAS MOST SUCCESSFUL, ECOLOGISTS AND TOXICOLOGISTS INTERACTING VERY WELL. THREE BOOKS ARE EXPECTED TO BE PUBLISHED AS A RESULT OF THIS WORKSHOP.

-- THE AIR-SEA INTERACTION PANEL HAS CONTINUED TO SPONSOR LARGE FUNDAMENTAL EXPERIMENTS, SYMPOSIA, INDIVIDUAL STUDY VISITS (PARTICULARLY TO GROUPS WITH UNIQUE FACILITIES),

AND EDUCATION AT ADVANCED LEVEL. IT HAS ALSO STIMULATED THE ORGANIZATION OF EXPERIMENTS WHERE NEW ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY WAS INVOLVED (E.G. DEEP BUOYS, REMOTE SENSING).

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-- THE MARINE SCIENCES PANEL SPONSORED TWO MAJOR EVENTS IN 1977: A CONFERENCE ON "GENETICS, ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION OF MARINE ORGANISMS" AND A MEETING ON "SPATIAL PATTERN IN PLANKTON COMMUNITIES". IN ITS EFFORT TO PROMOTE AND STIMULATE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN COUNTRIES REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM THE PANEL, A LECTURE TOUR WAS ORGANIZED IN TURKEY IN OCTOBER.

-- THE HUMAN FACTORS PANEL CONTINUES TO PURSUE THE OBJECTIVE OF BRINGING ABOUT BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF HUMAN BEHAVIOUR AS INDIVIDUALS OR IN GROUPS BY PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION IN THE HUMAN FACTORS AREA. IN 1977 THE PANEL PAID PARTICULAR ATTENTION, FOR EXAMPLE, TO URBAN PROBLEMS BY SUPPORTING A SYMPOSIUM ON "HUMAN CONSEQUENCES OF CROWDING"; BEHAVIOURAL SCIENTISTS AS WELL AS ARCHITECTS AND CITY PLANNERS DISCUSSED PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE ARISEN AS A CONSEQUENCE OF CROWDED URBAN CENTRES, SUCH AS HOUSING, PUBLIC HEALTH, RECREATION, URBAN SERVICES, MENTAL HEALTH, DRUG ADDICTION, PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS, ETC.

-- THE SYSTEMS SCIENCE PANEL CONTINUES TO ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF SYSTEMS SCIENCE AND ITS APPLICATION IN MEMBER COUNTRIES, AND TO FOSTER INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION IN RELATED FIELDS THROUGH A NUMBER OF MECHANISMS. IN 1977 AN ADVANCED RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON "DISCRETE OPTIMIZATION AND SYSTEMS APPLICATION" BROUGHT TOGETHER LEADING EXPERTS IN THIS FIELD, AND ADDRESSED ITSELF TO PRACTICAL PROBLEMS RELATED TO AIRLINE SCHEDULING AND ASSIGNMENTS, DESIGN OF COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS, PLANT LOCATION AND DISTRIBUTION PROBLEMS AND ALSO ALGORITHMIC DEVELOPMENTS AND COMPUTER CODES, ETC. THE ANNUAL SYSTEMS SCIENCE PRIZE COMPETITION IN 1977 DREW CONSIDERABLE INTEREST AND TWO ENTRIES WHICH BEST DEMONSTRATED THE APPLICATION OF SYSTEMS SCIENCE

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CAPABILITIES TO DECISION-MAKING, WRITTEN IN A LANGUAGE THAT CAN BE APPRECIATED AND UNDERSTOOD BY MANAGERS, WERE SELECTED AS WINNERS.

2.4 THE SENIOR SCIENTISTS PROGRAMME. THIS PROGRAMME

GIVES LIMITED FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO A FEW OUTSTANDING SCIENTISTS TO ALLOW THEM TO GIVE A SERIES OF ADVANCED LECTURE OR TO DEVELOP RESEARCH PROJECTS IN A LEADING CAPACITY DURING AN EXTENDED STAY AT AN INSTITUTE IN ANOTHER MEMBER COUNTRY. DURING 1977 THERE WERE 25 AWARDS UNDER THIS PROGRAMME.

2.5 THE FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAMME WILL BE DEALT WITH IN MORE DETAIL IN THE NEXT SECTION.

3. THE SCIENCE FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAMME. THIS PROGRAMME, WHICH REPRESENTS MORE THAN 50 PERCENT OF THE SCIENCE COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL BUDGET, IS ONE OF ITS MOST IMPORTANT AND SUCCESSFUL ACTIVITIES. IT WAS INITIATED WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF PROVIDING MEANS FOR YOUNG SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS TO FURTHER THEIR EDUCATION AT POST-GRADUATE AND POST-DOCTORAL LEVELS IN NATO COUNTRIES OTHER THAN THEIR OWN, AND ALSO TO STIMULATE EXCHANGE OF SCIENTISTS BY CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGING IN RESEARCH AT SISTER LABORATORIES AND INSTITUTIONS.

THE PROGRAMME IS UNIQUE IN THE SENSE THAT, ALTHOUGH UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE SCIENCE COMMITTEE, IT IS RESPONSIVE TO PREVAILING NATIONAL NEEDS, BEING DIRECTLY ADMINISTERED BY NATIONAL ADMINISTRATORS IN MEMBER COUNTRIES. FOR SOME COUNTRIES OF THE ALLIANCE, THE NATO SCIENCE FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAMME IS A CRITICAL ELEMENT IN ENSURING THE FORMATION

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OF A NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL MANPOWER BASE, AND BECAUSE OF ITS RELATIVELY LARGE SIZE, IT EXERTS A CONSIDERABLE BENEFICIAL IMPACT ON THEIR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

SINCE ITS BEGINNING, MORE THAN 12,000 SCIENTISTS HAVE BEEN TRAINED UNDER THE FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAMME, WHICH SUPPORTS SIGNIFICANT TRANSATLANTIC INTERCHANGES. THE PROGRAMME IS THUS A POWERFUL INSTRUMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LONG-LASTING LINKS BETWEEN FELLOWS AND INSTITUTIONS, WHICH IN TURN FORM AN INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITIES COMPOSED OF FORMER FELLOWS.

ALMOST ALL FIELDS IN SCIENCE ARE ELIGIBLE FOR SUPPORT. PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY OCCUPY THE MOST IMPORTANT PLACES, ACCOUNTING FOR ONE-THIRD OF THE TOTAL, FOLLOWED BY ENGINEERING, BIOLOGY, MEDICAL SCIENCES, MATHEMATICS, EARTH SCIENCES, AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES. THE REMAINING 20 PERCENT IS DISTRIBUTED AMONG OTHER AREAS.

FUNDS ALLOCATED YEARLY TO FELLOWSHIPS MAINTAIN ALMOST THE SAME SHARE OF THE SCIENCE BUDGET. HOWEVER, SINCE THE SCIENCE BUDGET HAS NOT KEPT PACE WITH INFLATION RATES IN MEMBER COUNTRIES, AND SINCE TRAVEL AND LIVING EXPENSES AS WELL AS UNIVERSITY COSTS IN COUNTRIES WHERE MOST OF

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THE FELLOWS GO HAVE INCREASED EVEN FASTER, THERE HAS BEEN A CONTINUOUS EROSION IN REAL TERMS IN THE MAGNITUDE OF SUPPORT PROVIDED FOR THIS IMPORTANT PROGRAMME.

RECOMMENDATION. THE COUNCIL IS INVITED TO NOTE THIS REPORT. END TEXT.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE BY MAY 15. BENNETT

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